



Seven Steps to building a Support Team

1. Pray and thank God for this opportunity and for helping you build a team that will allow to you seize this opportunity.
2. Pray and ask God to give you names of people ***He wants*** to be involved in helping you.
3. "Namestorm" as many names as God brings to your mind of people in your life whom you could send a letter telling about how God is leading you to be a part of the team. Write down those names no matter how you think those people might respond or what they might think. Very Important! Your letter may be the catalyst for something God is doing in their life. Begin collecting the addresses or emails of the people God put on your list.
4. Pray and ask God to inspire you as you write a letter with details of how you made this decision, details of the trip such as the location, purpose cost etc. I have included some sample letters for you to look at.
5. Ask for people to partner with you in this decision by praying, encouraging and donating to your expenses. "Partner" is a key word because it leads people from just giving a donation to actually giving their attention and support.
6. Pray over the letters and send them out.
7. Keep a record of those who respond and plan on keeping them updated after you return from your trip by sending a report with pictures. They will feel included and love it and want to partner again sometime and maybe even go sometime.

Make sure to talk about what you will be doing, include the website for Horizon, which is horizoninternationalinc.com, have checks made out to Horizon International and let people know their donations are tax deductible.



GO Team Support Letter Philosophy

Building a support network of partners is a very important part of your cross cultural team experience. Most people think of support only as financial donations and become uncomfortable with the idea or think it is not necessary for them to raise support. While financial support is necessary and wonderful, it is helpful to expand your concept of support to the areas of spiritual and emotional support as well as financial. It is also helpful to realize that there are many people in one's life who want to be supportive in all the areas mentioned. They want to be a part of something special in your life. Also, most people want to do something special and being involved with you gives them a sense of doing that. Building this kind of support network also creates many new opportunities for you to communicate your experience with your partners. So we strongly encourage everyone who participates on a GO Team to consider building a support network by crafting and sending a concise, informative letter to family members, friends and associates of all kinds. Your letter should contain all the information about your team and trip as well as all the opportunities for partnering including prayer, finances and moral support. The Apostle Paul gladly asked for assistance. He understood the importance of partnership, particularly prayer partnership. In his letter to the Romans, he appealed to them that they might offer prayers with him on his behalf and the behalf of the gospel. Like Paul we need partners in the ministry, whether through prayer or emotional support or through financial contributions.

This is very basic. You can modify the information and enhance it or personalize it any way you like. However, I recommend keeping it to no more than 1 page.

Date and your name and address here

Dear _____,

Next April I will be investing my Spring Break by taking the opportunity to travel to South Africa with a Team of students from Hamilton County on a mission's trip with Horizon International. We will be working alongside the local coordinators and pastors to facilitate a retreat for teenage African orphans, and a VBS for younger orphans. It will be a great way to build relationships and learn more about the challenges these children and young adults face.

Horizon International was started in 2001 with a vision to *provide hope to the children of Africa who have been orphaned because of HIV/AIDs.*

Horizon has nearly 20,000 orphans in their network and they sponsor many teams every year to help bring hope and care to these children.

This will be my first mission trip, as well as my first visit to Africa. I'm sure this will be a life-changing experience for me and a time to humble myself before the Father. I ask for your prayers and support as I embark on this adventure.

The total cost of this trip is around \$_____. I pray and trust that God will provide through friends like you. If you would like to help support me financially, in addition to your prayers, please make checks payable to Horizon International, and send them to my address, which is _____. I will give them to my Team Leader, Doug Ehrgott. All donations are tax deductible.

If you have any questions about the trip, you can call me (your number here) or Pastor Ehrgott (317-372-6347).

If you would like to learn more about the Horizon International you can log onto horizoninternationalinc.com.

Thank you for your time, and God Bless!

Sincerely,